



**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**DEPARTMENT OF**  
**TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY**

NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.T.E. 05-43

June 9, 2005

Investigation of the Department of Telecommunications and Energy on its own motion into the propriety of the rates and charges set forth in the following tariffs: The Berkshire Gas Company, M.D.T.E. 362 through M.D.T.E. 373, filed on May 13, 2005, to become effective September 1, 2005.

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On May 13, 2005, The Berkshire Gas Company ("Berkshire" or "Company") submitted its second annual rate adjustment filing, pursuant to the performance-based ratemaking plan approved by the Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("Department") in The Berkshire Gas Company, D.T.E. 01-56 (2002). The Department docketed this matter as D.T.E. 05-43.

Berkshire proposes an increase in normalized revenues of \$371,412, which amounts to a base revenue increase of 1.37 percent. If the Department approves the Company's proposal, the proposed rates will result in:

- an increase of \$0.33 per month for residential gas non-heating customers using 20 therms per month in the winter season; and
- an increase of \$0.98 per month for residential gas heating customers using 150 therms per month in the winter season.

Bill impacts for commercial and industrial customers will vary. For specific impacts, please contact the Company as indicated below. Berkshire requested that the proposed rate increase take effect on September 1, 2005.

Any persons wishing to submit written comments regarding this filing should submit one (1) original and five (5) copies with Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary of the Department of Telecommunications and Energy, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts 02110, not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on Friday, June 24, 2005. One copy of all written

comments should also be sent to the Company's attorney, James M. Avery, Brown Rudnick, One Financial Center, Boston, Massachusetts 02111. Reply comments are due by the close of business on Wednesday, July 6, 2005.

Commenters also are requested to submit comments to the Department in an electronic format using one of the following methods: (1) by e-mail attachment to [dte.efiling@state.ma.us](mailto:dte.efiling@state.ma.us) and [John.Geary@state.ma.us](mailto:John.Geary@state.ma.us); or (2) on a 3.5" disk, IBM-compatible format. The text of the e-mail or the disk label must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.T.E. 05-43); (2) name of the person or company submitting the comments; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. The electronic filing should also include the name, title and phone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. Text responses should be written in either Corel WordPerfect (naming the document with a ".wpd" suffix), in Microsoft Word, (naming the document with a ".doc" suffix), or as an Adobe PDF file (naming the document with a ".pdf" suffix). Data or spreadsheet responses should be compatible with Microsoft Excel. All comments submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's Website, <http://www.mass.gov/dte>.

A copy of the Company's filing is on file at the Department's offices, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts for public viewing during business hours (Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.). Copies are also on file for public viewing at Berkshire's offices, 115 Cheshire Road, Pittsfield, Massachusetts 01202-1388. Any person desiring further information regarding the Company's filing should contact James M. Avery, Esq., at (617) 856-8200. Any person desiring further information regarding this notice should contact the Hearing Officer, John J. Geary at (617) 305-3500.



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY

### ORDER OF NOTICE

D.T.E. 05-43

June 9, 2005

Investigation of the Department of Telecommunications and Energy on its own motion into the propriety of the rates and charges set forth in the following tariffs: The Berkshire Gas Company, M.D.T.E. 362 through M.D.T.E. 373, filed on May 13, 2005, to become effective September 1, 2005.

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The Berkshire Gas Company ("Company") shall service a copy of the attached Notice of Filing and Request for Comments on the service lists of The Berkshire Gas Company, D.T.E. 04-52 (2004) and The Berkshire Gas Company, D.T.E. 01-56 (2002), not later than the close of business on or before Tuesday, June 14, 2005. The Company shall make return of service on or before the same date.

By Order of the Department,

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Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary